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In the twelve weeks' course here outlined Mr. Jefferson devotes his instruction to the Distribution of Man upon the earth, and to Climate, one of the controlling factors of that distribution. Hand in hand with class instruction are daily exercises planned to make the student familiar with the weather elements, to test and strengthen his judgment concerning their effect upon his life, and to clarify the relation of his individual experience with the general laws whose effect on the earth at large he is studying. There are probably no phenomena about which young teachers show more ignorance than those connected with the general subject of climate. For this reason such a definite treatment, embodying a close study of maps as well as of daily weather happenings is destined to be of distinct service. The author has shown admirable restraint in confining this brief course to a definite topic and its applications. A teacher thus carefully trained in the use of maps and alert in his observation has the best possible foundation for the future culture his experience will bring him. If all teachers of geography could become familiar with the subject as presented in this admirable book the teaching of elementary geography would be on a distinctly higher plane.

C. W. HOTCHKISS.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

La Sismologie moderne. Les tremblements de terre. Par Comte de Montessus de Ballore. xx and 284 pp. Maps, ills. Armand Colin, Paris, 1911. 4 fr. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$.

Among the more highly civilized nations France is almost alone in having no semi-popular work upon earthquakes from an authoritative source. If this is to be explained by a belief that the pedestal of France is entirely stable so that the convulsions of the earth are without an intimate practical interest to her people, the idea should have been dispelled when on June 11, 1909, the district of Provence was strongly shaken by earthquakes. General interest in earthquakes having now been aroused by the recent destruction of Messina, the time is opportune for the appearance of a popular work written by one of the world's first authorities in this field and one fortunately gifted with a facile pen.

The earlier chapters are given to the evolution of earthquake apparatus, and in chapter V, which immediately follows, there is found the best general treatment in small compass of the multiple nature of earthquake waves as determined by both theoretical and mathematical methods on the one hand, and by instrumental and observational studies upon the other.

In chapter VI, which treats of the seat of the disturbance (*foyer*), the absurdity of the assumption of the earlier Mallet school that the shocks radiate from a definite point, is pointed out; though it is none the less evident that there is some hesitation in fully applying the newer explanation to which the Count gives his adhesion in the introduction, viz., "that the earthquake results from those large earth stresses which have elevated the mountains and have folded, broken and slid the rock strata one over the other." The earthquakes of Ischia (1883), of California (1906) and Assam (1897) are taken to represent three types of disturbance: the volcanic, movements localized along an extended line of fracture, and the mass movement of a large block. "These three distinct cases," the author states, "represent all possible combinations of the nature of earthquakes as regards the form of the epicentral region, and one sees that the old idea of the epicenter in its geometric sense applies to the first case only." To the reviewer it does not appear to be proven that the three cases differ in any essential respect, the apparently extinct Monte Epomeo having made no response to the Ischian earthquake of 1883, and Johnston-Lavis having shown that the site of Casamicola lies at the intersection of important fractures upon the island.

In succeeding chapters earth sounds either accompanied or unaccompanied by shocks, aftershocks, sea-quakes, seismic geography, the relation of earthquakes to earth relief, and the effect of shocks upon the appearance of the ground, are one after the other discussed in an able manner. A quite valuable chapter is devoted to exploding many supposed relationships of earthquakes; as, for example, to the phases of the moon, to the time of the day, to the season of the year, etc. An attempt is made to correlate the great earthquake belts of the globe with the mountain arcs of Suess's Pacific type, to which in the main

they correspond well. Though these belts thus appear to correspond to belts of folded strata, it is not, we believe, to be concluded that they are on this account the direct expression of the folding process, but are, on the contrary, a consequence of faulting much nearer to the surface.

The concluding chapters treat of the constitution of the earth's interior and of proper earthquake construction. When in accepting Professor Wiechert's supposed zones, composing the earth's core, the Count says that "the progress of observations can without doubt modify in some proportions the thickness of these diverse zones, but it is not probable that they should be later changed in any essential way, since this succession has been deduced from experiment without the intervention of theories or hypotheses," we believe he goes too far. In our belief there are several more or less unconscious hypotheses introduced in interpreting the earthquake diagrams which enter in an important way into the conclusions.

It will thus be seen that "Modern Seismology" is not a mere outline of the Count's larger manuals, but is written along original lines and is a valuable contribution to geophysics.

WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

These notes do not preclude more extended reference later

NORTH AMERICA

PHILIPSE MANOR HALL AT YONKERS, N. Y. The Site, the Building, and Its Occupants. By Edward Hagaman Hall. 255 pp. Ills. American Scenic & Historic Preservation Society, New York, 1912. 7½ x 5. [This delightful book gives the history and romance that centers in and around one of the most important American relics of seventeenth and eighteenth century times. It was here that Col. George Washington, who had won distinction in the French and Indian war, sought the hand of Mary Philipse, esteemed as one of the most beautiful and accomplished young women in the Colony of New York, only to learn that her promise had been given to Col. Roger Morris. Philipse Manor Hall is now maintained and preserved as an historic monument.]

BIRDS AND MAMMALS OF THE 1909 ALEXANDER ALASKA EXPEDITION. By Harry S. Swarth. 161 pp. Maps, ills. Univ. of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 7, No. 2, 1911. Berkeley. 10½ x 7. [The Expedition was sent out at the cost of Miss Annie M. Alexandre to explore parts of the Sitka district not covered by the expedition of 1907. Sixteen islands and six points on the mainland were visited. This report contains a report on the localities visited, check lists and descriptions of 137 birds and 27 mammals collected, and remarks on their distribution.]

REVIEW OF HISTORICAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO CANADA. University of Toronto Studies. Vol. 15, 1911, xi and 220 pp. Index. Publications of 1910. Vol. 16, 1912, xiii and 211 pp. Index. Publications of 1911. Edited by George M. Wrong and W. Stewart Wallace. University Press, Toronto. \$1.50 each. 10½ x 7. [Well written reviews of current publications relating to Canada and treating of its history, economics, geography, statistics, archæology, ethnology, folk-lore, law, education and bibliography.]

THE YEAR BOOK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA AND MANUAL OF PROVINCIAL INFORMATION. By R. E. Gosnell. 358 pp. Ills., index. Published by Authority Legislative Assembly, B. C. Victoria, B. C., 1911. \$1. 8½ x 6. [A work of reference in respect to matters of general interest relating to British Columbia.]

AMONG THE ESKIMOS OF LABRADOR. A Record of Five Years' Close Intercourse with the Eskimo Tribes of Labrador. By S. K. Hutton. xviii and 340 pp. Maps, ills. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1912. \$3.50. 9 x 6. [The book gives a plain picture of the Eskimos of Labrador, as the author saw them for years, in their homes, at their work, and on their hunting and other journeys. It embraces all phases of their life and describes their bleak habitat. Copiously illustrated with well-chosen photo-engravings.]